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the adoption of the eight hour system, which was referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs.

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fore, the doctrine of States Rights strikes at the foundation of all government; no State or States can, by the Constitution and laws, secede without rebellion, and they destroy all their rights and privileges, and the Government over the territory reverts to the United States: all the territory of Texas ought to be set aside under such rules of secession as would leave no prospect for the use of the colored people of the United States; the welfare of both races demands that the colored people should be set apart from the whites.

The resolutions were committed to the Committee on Reconstruction.

THE NEW CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

The House proceeded to the consideration of the proposed amendment to the Constitution of the United States, in relation to the apportionment of representatives and direct taxes.

Mr. Jencks suggested that the amendment said nothing about a property qualification. South Carolina, for instance, might require a qualification of fifty acres of land, or the payment of a tax, and there would be no discrimination on account of color in that State; yet the basis of representation would be the same.

Mr. Stevens replied no matter whether the State set out white or black, the representation would be diminished to that extent.

Mr. Farnsworth—But suppose the black man does not own land, or pay taxes, or have property? Mr. Stevens—Then the amendment operates.

Mr. Brooks wished to know whether the one hundred thousand Asiatics or coolies in California and Oregon and those who are going into Nevada and the territories included.

Mr. Stevens replied that he understood that Asiatics are excluded by the laws of California, on account of race, from the elective franchise; therefore, in this respect, to this extent, would be curtailed of representation.

Mr. Brooks asked why exclude the Indian. Is he not a man of color?

Mr. Stevens replied, "Indians not taxed are excluded by the Constitution."

Mr. Brooks—"But why not include them?" Mr. Stevens—"They are tribal and have their own separate governments."

Mr. Brooks asked Mr. Stevens to withdraw his demand for his previous question, as he desired to offer an amendment.

Mr. Stevens—"I cannot do it and insist on the previous question."

Mr. Baker of Ill. (in a persuasive tone)—"I appeal earnestly and kindly to the gentleman from Pennsylvania to yield the floor for a very few minutes."

Mr. Stevens—"The gentleman is too polite; I cannot do it." (Laughter.)

Mr. Baker—"I submit whether it is entirely proper to put through an amendment to the Constitution and refuse a word of debate or one moment to raise an objection. As for myself, I protest against this course."

Mr. Stevens—I have only suggested what I have thought it our duty to do, if the amendment is to be considered. I am only raising the question to the House. If the House desire to delay, they can do so by refusing to sustain the demand for the previous question.

Mr. Baker—Why not allow five or ten minutes debate?

Mr. Stevens—I am not for me to say. I submit the question to the House. I think we ought to pass this joint resolution to-day.

Mr. Brooks—"I submit that we have the five or ten minutes debate." (Laughter.)

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House were more radical than they were themselves. In reply to a question, asked by Mr. Smith, he said that in his opinion, the States which have been in rebellion are not necessary to ratify an amendment to the Constitution.

Mr. Trimble, of Ky., asked his friends on the other side, before they took this step of passing upon the amendment, to pause and reflect upon the consequences it would have upon the people of every section of the country. Without a moment's discussion this amendment was to operate for good or for evil upon the people of every section of the country. Who have no voice to plead for their rights and privileges of the floor? You have closed these doors against them. Why are Messrs. Maynard, Stokes, Cooper, Hawkins and others who fought the battles of their country kept out?

Mr. Lynch—Does the gentleman know why "Poor Tray" suffered?

Mr. Trimble—Yes, but I trust the gentleman does not mean to attack a claim to these gentlemen by saying they were in bad company. They fought for the Union; they were in company of the President of the United States. Col. Hawkins was under fire sixty long days at Vicksburg, and I admit he was then in bad company. Mr. Trimble concluded by averting to the principles heretofore declared as the object of the war, and argued that there was no power over the Constitution to destroy the institution of slavery, much less to deprive the property of the white people of the Southern States of the right of property in slaves. The pending proposition was an attack upon the President and the principle taught by that distinguished man.

Mr. Lawrence, Ohio, moved that the resolution be recommitted, with instructions to amend: first to apportion direct taxation among the States, according to the property in each; and second, to apportion representation among the States, on the basis of adult voters who may be citizens of the United States.

Mr. Washburn, Ill., objected, and the House then adjourned.

EXCITEMENT IN THE OIL REGIONS.

A Vigilance Committee.

Titusville, Pa., Jan. 23.—On Sunday night an attempt was made to burn the town. At nine o'clock a house and barn were set on fire, and an hour later Chase's block, in the centre of the town, was fired and burned down; also Dwyer's furniture and liquor store and the new bathing house of Fletcher. The block of the First National Bank, the Petroleum Bank and the Post Office at one time were in great danger. Three incendiaries are on trial to-day by the Vigilance Committee, which numbers thirty of the best men in the town, and who are dreadfully in earnest. A gallows has been built to hang the incendiaries if they are found guilty. The loss by the fire is \$75,000, and the insurance \$55,000. The Ly